

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Prefabricated sealing membrane,  
having high stability to UV exposure and formed of a support or  
reinforcement, such as one or several backings that are fibrous  
or not, the support or reinforcement being one of coated on at  
least one surface [[,] and preferably impregnated throughout,  
with a modified bitumen base composition, characterized in that  
the thermoplastic bituminous coating and or impregnation  
composition is a bituminous binder modified by a thermoplastic  
polyurethane having the following weight proportion:

- 40 to 90% bitumen,
- 10 to 50% thermoplastic polyurethane,
- 0 to 10% aromatic oil,
- 0 to 50% filler,
- 0 to 0.5% catalyst,

the modified bituminous binder adapted to be softened  
by reheating and recover its properties after subsequent cooling,  
the sealing membrane highly stable to UV exposure.

2. (currently amended) Sealing membrane according to claim 1, characterized in that the bituminous ~~coating and/or impregnation~~ composition has the following weight proportion:

- 60 to 80% bitumen,
- 15 to 40% thermoplastic polyurethane,
- 0 to 5%, ~~preferably 0 to 3%~~, aromatic oil,
- 0 to 40%, ~~preferably 0 to 20%~~, filler,
- 0 to 0.5% catalyst.

3. (currently amended) Sealing membrane according to claim 1, characterized in that the bituminous ~~coating and/or impregnation~~ composition contains also between 0.01 and 20% by weight of one or several additives improving adhesion, resistance to fire or to flames and/or resistance to roots, of said composition.

4. (currently amended) Sealing membrane according to claim 1, characterized in that the thermoplastic polyurethane is obtained from a diisocyanate of a functionality substantially equal to 2, ~~preferably an aromatic isocyanate~~, of a polyol of functionality substantially equal to 2, ~~preferably selected from the group of polyesters, polyethers, polycarbonates and mixtures of these polyols, of molecular weights comprised between 1000 and 5000~~, and a chain elongation agent, ~~preferably a diol or a molecular weight comprised between 50 and 500~~.

5. (previously presented) Sealing membrane according to claim 1, characterized in that the thermoplastic polyurethane is constituted by a quantity of hard segments comprised between 10 and 40%.

6. (currently amended) Sealing membrane according to claim 1, characterized in that the material or materials forming the filler is or are selected from the group of mineral fillers formed by chalk, silica, talc, dolomite, kaolin and possible mixtures of two or several of these substances.

7. (withdrawn) Process for the production of a sealing membrane, characterized in that it consists in synthesizing a prepolymer of thermoplastic polyurethane, introducing said prepolymer into the bitumen heated to a temperature higher than its melting temperature, then adding at least the chain elongating agent, then the catalyst and finally the other components, heating and agitating the resulting mixture, preferably intermittently, to achieve complete polymerization, to obtain a composition having a weight formulation according to claim 1, and, finally, applying the hot modified bituminous composition in a layer on the support such as a fibrous backing, by one or more operations of coating or impregnation.

8. (withdrawn) Process for the production of a sealing membrane, characterized in that it consists in bringing the bitumen to its melting temperature, preferably to 100°C, then adding the polyol or the polyols and the isocyanate adapted to form the thermoplastic polyurethane, agitating the intermediate resulting mixture to obtain about the theoretical quantity of NCO, then adding the chain elongating agent, the catalyst and if desired the other components, progressively increasing the temperature of the final mixture to about 180°C, agitating the mixture intermittently or continuously, until complete polymerization, to obtain a composition having a weight proportion according to claim 1, finally, applying the hot modified bituminous composition in a layer on a support such as a fibrous backing, by one or more operations of coating or impregnation.

9-12. (cancelled)

13. (new) The membrane of claim 1, wherein,  
the support or reinforcement comprises plural fibrous backings impregnated throughout.

14. (new) The membrane of claim 1, wherein,  
the support or reinforcement comprises a coated fibrous backing.

15. (new) A prefabricated sealing membrane having high stability to UV exposure, comprising:

a support; and

a modified bitumen base composition applied to a surface of the support or impregnated throughout the support,

the modified bitumen base composition comprising

40 to 90% bitumen,

10 to 50% thermoplastic polyurethane,

0 to 10% aromatic oil,

0 to 50% filler, and

0 to 0.5% catalyst,

the modified bituminous base composition being thermoplastic softening under action of heat from torch welding and recovering its properties after subsequent cooling,

the sealing membrane highly stable to UV exposure.

16. (new) The membrane of claim 15, wherein,

the thermoplastic polyurethane comprises a diisocyanate, a polyol, and a chain lengthening agent, the thermoplastic polyurethane molecules free of double carbon-carbon bonds,

the polyols are free of ethylene linkages,

the functionality of the polyols is between 1.95 and 2.05, and

the functionality of the isocyanates is between 2.0 and 2.1.

17. (new) The membrane of claim 16, wherein a ratio of isocyanate/polyol is between 1.0 and 1.1.

18. (new) The membrane of claim 16, wherein a ratio of isocyanate/polyol is about 1.05.

19. (new) The membrane of claim 15, wherein the modified bitumen base composition comprises 20 to 30% thermoplastic polyurethane.

20. (new) The membrane of claim 15, wherein the modified bitumen base composition comprises 15 to 40% thermoplastic polyurethane.

21. (new) The membrane of claim 1, wherein,  
the thermoplastic polyurethane comprises a diisocyanate, a polyol, and a chain lengthening agent,  
the thermoplastic polyurethane molecules free of double carbon-carbon bonds,  
the polyols are free of ethylene linkages,  
the functionality of the polyols is between 1.95 and 2.05, and

the functionality of the isocyanates is between 2.0 and 2.1.

22. (new) The membrane of claim 21, wherein a ratio of isocyanate/polyol is between 1.0 and 1.1.

23. (new) The membrane of claim 1, wherein a ratio of isocyanate/polyol is about 1.05.

24. (new) A prefabricated sealing membrane having high stability to UV exposure, comprising:

a support; and

a modified bitumen base composition applied to the support,

the modified bitumen base composition comprising

40 to 90% bitumen,

10 to 50% thermoplastic polyurethane comprising a diisocyanate, a polyol, and a chain lengthening agent,

0 to 10% aromatic oil,

0 to 50% filler, and

0 to 0.5% catalyst,

the modified bituminous base composition being thermoplastic softening under action of heat and recovering its properties after subsequent cooling,

the sealing membrane highly stable to UV exposure,  
wherein,

the thermoplastic polyurethane molecules are free of  
double carbon-carbon bonds,

the polyols are free of ethylene linkages, and

the functionality of the polyols is between 1.95 and  
2.05.